

WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

Saturday, December 13, 1913.



W. F. Massey, Prof. of Agronomy at the University of North Carolina.

Velvet Beans.
"Do you know the address of any Florida farmer who can furnish seed of the velvet beans, as I wish to try some here?" I do not know any such address, and it is not at all necessary for you to send to Florida to get the seed. Any seedman in Richmond can probably supply it.

Apple Regions.
"You are familiar with the various sections of the State, and I would like your opinion as to the best section for commercial apple orcharding." There are so many favorable sections that it is rather hard to answer your question. Apple growing has developed profitably in nearly all the upper Piedmont counties along the east side of the Blue Ridge, and in the lower valleys of Frederick and Clark Counties, and in Roanoke, and you can hardly go 50 miles in the mountain country for good locations. If you get these transportation facilities, you can grow apples in any section of the State. It is more a matter of how many are in the business in a locality and the transportation facilities. Take a place where there has been a large volume of apples growing, since in such a place the strength to control good fruit rates. A community effort is always better than a lone grower trying to get on.

Preparing for Alfalfa.
"I want to lime a piece of land which I am preparing for alfalfa-growing next fall. What kind of lime should I use, burnt lime, unslaked ground limestone or lime marl? How much acid soil? Is it really necessary to analyze for alfalfa on good, fresh land?"

You do not say what sort of preparation you are making for alfalfa, or what you have now and will have on the land. I would not apply the lime now, but would sow cow peas on the land. In the fall, after the peas are turned under, and then apply the lime. It makes little difference what form of lime you get, but I would not apply the burnt lime unslaked, spread the lime after the peas are turned under, and harrow it in well. The ton of slaked lime will be all right, or two tons of ground limestone or lime marl. The main matter to consider is the acid soil of the respective farms. You can get lime I suppose, for about \$3.50 per ton at the kilns, and can get good lime for one or two cents a ton at the factory in bulk. When you buy in small lots I cannot say. A ton of good Valley lime should slake more than double in bulk, and when you take lime consideration that it will require twice the amount of the ground limestone or the lime marl, you will usually find that the burnt lime is the cheapest, and certainly is more quick-effective. The freshness of the soil does not indicate that it has the bacteria that alfalfa needs, and for the best success you will need to introduce these bacteria in some way. If you can get soil from an alfalfa field that has gotten well established, or soil from a place where alfalfa has been grown, scatter it over the land and harrow in at once before the sun has a chance to destroy the bacteria. You can get the inoculation usually better than by using artificial cultures. But usually it is cheaper to get the cultures and inoculate the seed just before sowing. In the burrs has been found to inoculate the land for alfalfa, as the burr clover has the same bacterium, and it will be carried in the burr clover. The burr clover is a kind of alfalfa, but is an annual, and is not well suited to Virginia conditions, being somewhat tender in winter.

Preventing Pops in Peanuts.
"What is the comparative value in preventing pops in peanuts of 800 to 1,000 pounds of pulverized limestone an acre against 100 pounds of land plaster?"

Peanuts do, like other legume plants, use some lime, but the main influence of lime or plaster in preventing pops is the release of the insoluble potash in the soil, and their effect in either of these forms of lime will depend on the abundance of potash in the soil, for it is the deficiency of potash that causes pops. The pulverized limestone is the carbonate of lime, while the land plaster is the sulfate of lime. The lime stone will have a far better effect on the land, as it will tend to sweeten it for the activity of the bacteria that live on the peanut roots, as they do on clover, while the land plaster will have no effect in sweetening the soil. But if I was going to use the pulverized limestone I would apply it more heavily, or at rate of 2,000 pounds an acre, or would use burnt lime in half the amount. But if you make a good fertilizer of 500 pounds of the Thomas phosphate (Basic Slur), fifty pounds of sulfate of soda, and fifty pounds of muriate of potash an acre, you will use no lime nor plaster, for the Thomas phosphate carries 10 per cent of free lime, and that will answer for all the plant food needs of the peanut crop, and the potash will prevent pops.

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The nitrate of soda is used merely for an early start-off, as peanuts can get nitrogen from the air. Your land I am sure is rather deficient in potash and the application of the potash will be of more importance than the lime.

Home Mixing of Fertilizers.
"Please advise me whether it is not practical to mix one's own fertilizers where you have plenty of sand or woods loam on your own farm, and also where would be the best place for buying the nitrate, potash, phosphate and ammonia for this purpose?" In the first place, you will have no need for the sand or woods earth to make the fertilizer. There seems to be an impression among farmers that some useless material is necessary as a "filler" in a fertilizer. This has arisen from the fact that the makers of fertilizers do use such fillers largely in the making of low-priced fertilizers to meet the demand of the farmers for such. If you buy the low grades such as the 3-2-2 fertilizer, you, of course, pay for seeking and freighting a large amount of sand or other worthless material need to bulk for a ton, and you pay higher price for a grade of fertilizer than if you bought a high grade that needs no filler. Now it is always rather difficult to advise in regard to the making of a fertilizer mixture where one has no knowledge of the special needs of the soil on which it is to be used, or the crop for which it is intended. I have said before that in these columns that a farmer who farms well in a good rotation of crops and grows plenty of peas and clover and feeds from the legumes and saves his manure carefully and applies it, will never need to buy a complete fertilizer mixture, or one containing nitrogen or ammonia, for he can get this in greater abundance without cost and still only need to buy the phosphoric acid and potash, and on the red clay soils only the phosphoric acid. Hence, it depends on a little man in farming as to what fertilizer he shall use. If you have clover on your land either for corn or cotton you will need only acid phosphate and potash, or, as I have said, on red clay soils, the acid phosphate alone.

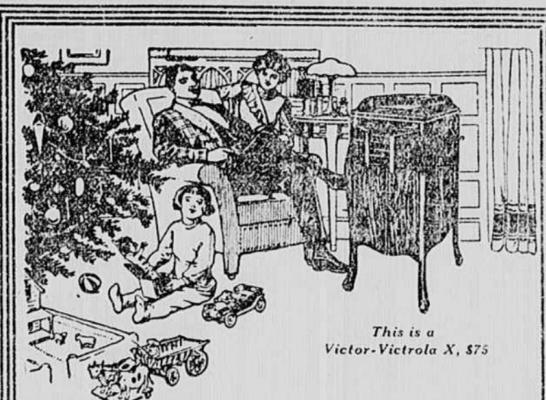
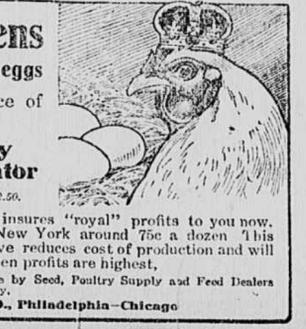
But in your section you have a great deal of sandy soil that needs potash, and yours may be such, though you do not inform me. It does not pay to depend on a complete fertilizer mixture for the corn crop, for that can be best made by having a clover crop to turn under for it. And the clover will be just as valuable for cotton, though cotton pays better for heavy fertilization than corn. You give me no information as to the crop you intend the fertilizer for. For cotton or corn the following will make a good complete fertilizer:

One thousand pounds of acid phosphate of 16 per cent grade; 500 pounds of cottonseed meal and 200 pounds of muriate of potash, to make one ton. 500 pounds an acre, half in the furrows and half broadcast, for the roots of cotton or corn run far and wide across the rows and will soon get away from a little potash in the furrows. Any fertilizer manufacturer or dealer in Richmond can supply the ingredients. Used on corn, this will greatly increase the crop, but I think that you will find that the increase has cost nearly as much as it is worth.

The Hardy Chrysantheums.
"I have had this year a lot of orders that have interested every one visiting my place. These are the hardy, small-flowered, or pompon chrysantheums. They are common enough, but more are more rare because I grow them all from seed this year. Many of them came single like big daisies of all sorts of colors, and some are perfectly double. On by one, as I write this, is a vase filled with these pretty chrysantheums, and they seem to expand and grow larger after being cut and put in water, and they began to bloom in late October and today, November 22, they are still full of flowers in a bed where I put a cheese-cloth shelter over them. Growing perennial plants from seed is a very interesting amusement for one who loves the garden. I have a large collection of dahlias, all of which were grown by seed, and every year the best ones selected, and there are many things that one can get cheaply in abundance by sowing the seed instead of buying the plants. Seeding dahlias are as easy to grow as a tomato plant, and a good strain of seed will be sure to give you fine flowers, and even the single ones are fine for cutting. As I am too old to bother with large farming operations now, I find the garden and the flowers a great means of recreation."

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News of Petersburg

The Times-Dispatch Bureau, 5 Hollingsbrook Street, Petersburg, Va., December 12. (Phone 1155.)
The Fourth Congressional District Democratic Committee, called to meet here this afternoon to pass upon the authority of the City Democratic Committee to order a preferential primary election to nominate a candidate for Judge of the Hustings Court, did not hold a meeting for lack of a quorum, only one member—H. E. Hutchinson, of Mecklenburg—and Chairman Robert Gilliam were present. Other members did not come because they thought a meeting unnecessary after the city committee had declared the primary off, and had refused to endorse any candidate for the position. By that action nothing was left for the district committee to pass upon. And then, too, the election law is so clear on this subject as to necessarily no ruling under it.

Merchants in Meeting.
The Retail Merchants' Association at its meeting last night discussed several matters of interest. One of these was the question of discarding regular days for collecting and paying bills, so long in vogue here, and making bills payable when due. Action will probably be taken on this matter at the January meeting of the Association. A report from the credit department showed that collections are good. The association endorsed the movement inaugurated by the Chamber of Commerce for the purchase by the government of the "Pater" farm as a nucleus of a national Battleford Park, and will give assistance in accomplishing this object. Senators Martin and Swanson and Congressmen have given assurance of their active aid to secure government ownership of the farm. Members of the association generally reported a prosperous business year, and a bright outlook for the future.

Aldermen and Councilmen Entertained.
Mayor Cabaniss last night, in A. P. Hill Camp Hall, entertained at supper the members of the Board of Aldermen and Common Council. The spread was exceptionally fine and the host was most cordial and genial. The Mayor, in an address to the guests, said that his object was to be thrown into closer acquaintance and fellowship with them, that they might know and understand each other the better, that they might work together in harmony for the good of the city and the advancement of its interests. In this work he urged that all factional and personal feelings be discarded and that all devote their energies with an eye single to the city's welfare.

Several of the guests responded to the Mayor's remarks, expressing appreciation and support of his sentiments and wishes. The evening was passed most enjoyably and the Mayor's hospitality was cordially appreciated.

Public School Exhibit.
The Petersburg Public School Exhibit, which received so much attention and caused as much praise at the recent conference in Lynchburg, will be placed on view to-morrow and for several days in one of Rogers's new stores on Sycamore Street. The exhibit is one of large extent and variety, and greatly creditable to the schools.

Annual Election of Officers.
Petersburg Lodge, No. 75, of Odd Fellows, last night elected officers, as follows: noble grand, E. F. Brittingham; vice-grand, Joseph R. Carter; recording secretary, James A. McInnis; financial secretary, H. L. Alley; treasurer, David W. Hawkins; chaplain, James C. Hoy. These officers will be installed at the second meeting in January. The educational feature recently introduced is meeting with great favor. A lecture on some subject is delivered at every meeting. Oakwood Camp, No. 1, Woodmen of the World, last night elected officers, as follows: past consul-commander, R. T. Hughes; consul-commander, W. E. Holloway; adviser, Lieutenant F. E. Green; banker, B. B. Jones; clerk, W. D. Northington; escort, T. E. Gibbs; watchman, R. S. Ramsey; sentry, J. L. Coon; physicians, Drs. C. T. Jones, W. E. Harwood, P. R. Hains and J. M.

DEMINORATIONS ARE A REAL NECESSITY

Some Church Work Cannot Be Done Properly Without Them.

THEY ALWAYS WILL EXIST

Dr. Burroughs Expects to See Them When Kingdom of God Comes.

BY MAMIE BAYS.

Shelby, N. C., December 12.—It was with the declaration that he believed when the kingdom of God comes upon the earth the different religious denominations still will exist that Rev. P. E. Burroughs, D. D., of Nashville, Tenn., educational secretary of the Sunday school board of the Southern Baptist Convention, reached the climax of the address which he delivered before the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina this morning. He was speaking in the interest of an adult Bible class and the teachers' training department of the Sunday school following the report of the Sunday school board of the convention. Some interests, he said, can be accomplished by interdenominational agencies, but the Sunday school department work cannot grow and flourish in an interdenominational atmosphere. The report of the board shows that the number of churches identified with the Sunday school in the State Convention of North Carolina, in less than 75 per cent, but that it is growing. The number is larger than that of the Southern Baptist Convention, which is less than 65 per cent, and larger than that of the Baptists of the United States, which is less than 50 per cent.

More Offerings Needed.
Regarding the maintenance of the State Sunday school department, the report showed that the number of churches of the convention contribute nothing, while other, capable of giving liberally contribute a mere pittance. It showed further that during the past year 1,000 churches made no offering to this work, and during the coming year \$2,500 will be needed to support this one interest of the convention, including the expense of printing and making necessary to make effective the plans outlined by the board.

The contributions received from Sunday schools in twenty-one associations of the convention, to the cause of the convention amounted to \$19,251, and the report expressed the belief that a total of \$100,000 had been contributed, some Sunday schools having made no report. The following items of the report are of special interest regarding the Sunday school work of the convention. During five years the number of Sunday schools increased from 1,659 in 1908, to 2,208, a gain of 32.6 per cent. The enrollment has grown from 141,159 to 220,678, a gain of 56.3 per cent. The secretary has worked in all the associations except two small ones formed during the last two years. He has reached an average of ninety-five churches in forty-one associations, and has attended 192 meetings, or an average of twenty each year. The aggregate number of institutes and annual Sunday school conventions attended is 1,000. In these meetings he has visited 1,000 churches, and addressed the people more than 1,000 times. This work with the office has enlisted more than 6,000 in the task of teacher training. There is an enlarging personal correspondence with the Sunday school work of an average of 6,000 general letters, and possibly 7,000 tracts on the various departments and interests of the work, although this work started as early as 1908, and was maintained for many years entirely or partly by this fund, yet during the last five years it has been maintained free from debt without using any of the funds of State missions. There are now reported 1,871 churches, of these seventy-seven are high school or mission schools, leaving 1,800 churches of the Sunday school. During the year about seventy new schools have been organized under the offer of the Sunday school board to give a quarter literature free. There has been a splendid increase in membership, 10,000 per cent.

Conditions Favorable.
This more numerical growth is by no means the only evidence of favorable conditions. The growth in teaching, in training, in the growth of a temperance sentiment throughout the country, and in the fact that the fight for enforcement is winning in prohibition territory, and that saloon territory is diminishing. The report stated, further, that recent statistics have added the past year in the history of the relief board, the number receiving aid during the greater part of the year having been thirty-eight. Seven of these passed away during the latter part of the year. The report noted also that the receipts of miscellaneous relief was larger than those of any previous year, the increase having been almost 50 per cent over those of the year previous. The report expressed the belief that this large increase in receipts warranted that committee in the opinion that with proper effort would not be difficult to get the Baptists of the South to establish a large fund.

The report of the committee on temperance, which was adopted by the convention, relating to the growth of temperance sentiment throughout the country, and in the fact that the fight for enforcement is winning in prohibition territory, and that saloon territory is diminishing. The report stated, further, that recent statistics have added the past year in the history of the relief board, the number receiving aid during the greater part of the year having been thirty-eight. Seven of these passed away during the latter part of the year. The report noted also that the receipts of miscellaneous relief was larger than those of any previous year, the increase having been almost 50 per cent over those of the year previous. The report expressed the belief that this large increase in receipts warranted that committee in the opinion that with proper effort would not be difficult to get the Baptists of the South to establish a large fund.

Urged to Restrict Shipments.
The report urged that the Webb law provides that States can control the work of the United States should take steps to prohibit the shipment of toxicants into this State, and should appeal to the lawmakers of the next general Assembly to prohibit such shipments. The report expressed the sense of the committee that the Federal government should refuse to grant liquor license to any person or corporation in "dry" territory, and reported that a bill to that effect probably will be presented to Congress at early day. The report urged that Representatives from North Carolina be urged to support the bill to further delivery of the report was to the effect that it is neither right nor just for liquor dealers to use the mails to advertise their goods and to make sales in territory where those in the same territory are not allowed to sell the same. The report expressed hearty accord with the movement for nation-wide prohibition and commended the work of the American League of North Carolina. It commended also the literature and speakers of this organization. The report on temperance was the last report submitted to the con-



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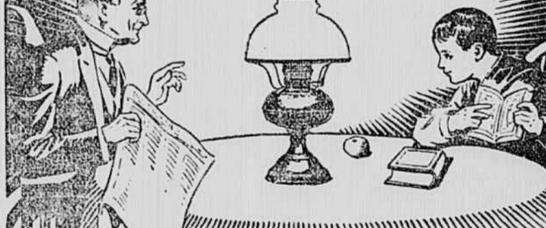
Seventh and Grace Streets.

vention, and no other business remained to be transacted except a few items of miscellaneous nature. All of these items were considered, and the minutes of the session of the day were read and approved. The convention adjourned with prayer by Rev. F. M. Jordan, one of the oldest members of the body. The next session of the body will convene in Raleigh on Tuesday, December 8, 1914.

FIVE MEMBERS RESIGN.
Opponents of Mrs. Young Retire From School Board.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Lawrenceville, Va., December 12.—Holly Grove, the ancestral home of George R. Blik, was sold this week to a representative of Walter Sachs, of Petersburg. The farm contains 371 acres, and brought \$11,555.

Resolution Proposing School Fair.
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
West Point, Va., December 12.—At the regular meeting of the School Improvement and Civic League a resolution was offered proposing a county school fair to be held in the town of West Point in the near future. This resolution, after discussion, was unanimously adopted and a committee was named to advise the subject and consider time, ways and means to carry it out. Mrs. J. W. Marshall, Mrs. W. R. Broadbent and Mrs. Samuel T. Bland were named as a committee.



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